

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~transmission apparatus for transmitting digital content data distribution system via a communication medium for delivering and selling digital content data over a network to a user, the system comprising:~~

means for computing a content fee per unit volume of said digital content data;

means for computing a communication fee charged for the delivery of said digital content data over the network;

means for attaching integrating said content fee information per unit data volume and attribute information about said digital content data to said digital content data with said communication fee, wherein the integration of said content fee with said communication fee said content fee information includes at least one unit price of said unit data volume produces a total fee, said means for integrating configured to include the total fee in the digital content data; and

means for transmitting delivering said digital content data to the user over the network after converting the data format of said digital content data into a data format suitable to said communication medium.

2. (canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~transmission apparatus~~ digital content data distribution system according to claim 1, further comprising:

division means for dividing said digital content data into predetermined unit data volumes.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~transmission apparatus~~ digital content data distribution system according to claim 1, further comprising:

notification means for notifying a management unit of transmission information about said digital content data ~~transmitted~~ delivered by said ~~transmission~~ delivery means.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~transmission apparatus~~ digital content data distribution system according to claim 4, wherein said notification means notifies said management unit of, as transmission information about said digital content data ~~transmitted~~ delivered by said ~~transmission~~ delivery means, at least one of said content fee information, information for identifying a sender, information for identifying a recipient, and a data volume of said digital content data ~~transmitted~~.

6. (Currently Amended) A ~~transmission method~~ digital content data distribution method for ~~transmitting digital content data via a communication medium~~ delivering and selling digital content data over a network to a user, the method comprising:

computing a content fee per unit volume of said digital content data;

computing a communication fee charged for the delivery of said digital content data over the network;

integrating ~~attaching said content fee information per unit data volume and attribute information about said digital content data to said digital content data~~ with said communication

~~fee, wherein the integration of said content fee with said communication fee~~
~~information includes at least one unit price of said unit data volume~~ produces a total fee, said
means for integrating configured to include the total fee in the digital content data; and

delivering ~~transmitting~~ said digital content data to the user ~~attached after converting the~~
~~data format of said digital content data into a data format suitable to said communication~~
~~medium~~ verifying that the total fee was received from the user.

7. (Currently Amended) A recording medium recording a computer-readable program
for ~~transmitting digital content data via a communication medium~~ delivering and selling digital
content data to a user over a network, said computer-readable program comprising:

computing a content fee per unit volume of said digital content data;

computing a communication fee charged for the delivery of said digital content data over
the network;

integrating ~~attaching~~ said content fee information per unit data volume and attribute
~~information about said digital content data to said digital content data~~ with said communication
fee, wherein the integration of said content fee with said communication fee ~~said content fee~~
~~information includes at least one unit price of said unit data volume~~ produces a total fee, said
means for integrating configured to include the total fee in the digital content data; and

delivering ~~transmitting~~ said digital content data to the user ~~attached after converting the~~
~~data format of said digital content data into a data format suitable to said communication~~
~~medium~~ verifying that the total fee was received from the user.

8. (Currently Amended) A reception apparatus for receiving digital content data ~~transmitted via a communication medium~~ delivered to a user over a network, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving said digital content data with its ~~data format converted into a data format suitable for said communication medium and for restoring~~ fee information included in the received digital content data,

wherein said fee information includes a content fee per unit volume of said digital content data integrated with a communication fee charged for delivering said digital content data over the network;

means for removing ~~content~~ said fee information ~~per unit data volume and attribute information about said digital content data from the restored~~ received digital content data,

where ~~said content fee information includes at least one unit price of said unit data volume~~ allows the user to pay for the content fee along with the communication fee; and

reproduction means for reproducing said digital content data ~~deprived of said content fee information.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The reception apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

notification means for notifying a management unit of ~~reception information about said digital content data received by said reception means~~ receiving said fee information by said means for receiving.

10. (Currently Amended) The reception apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said notification means notifies, ~~as said reception information about said digital content data received by said reception means,~~ the management of at least one of said content fee information, information for identifying a sender, information for identifying a recipient, and a data volume of said received digital content data.

11. (Currently Amended) A reception method for receiving digital content data ~~transmitted via a communication medium delivered to a user over a network,~~ the method comprising:

receiving said digital content data ~~with its data format converted into a data format suitable for said communication medium and for restoring the received digital content data~~ fee information included in the received digital content data,

wherein said fee information includes a content fee per unit volume of said digital content data integrated with a communication fee charged for delivering said digital content data over the network;

~~removing content~~ said fee information per unit data volume and attribute information about said digital content data from the restored received digital content data,

~~where said content fee information includes at least one unit price of said unit data volume~~ allows the user to pay for the content fee along with the communication fee; and
reproducing said digital content data ~~deprived of said content fee information.~~

12. (Currently Amended) A recording medium recording a computer-readable program for receiving digital content data ~~transmitted via a communication medium~~ delivered to a user over a network, said computer-readable program comprising:

receiving said digital content data ~~with its data format converted into a data format suitable for said communication medium and for restoring the received digital content data~~ fee information included in the received digital content data,

wherein said fee information includes a content fee per unit volume of said digital content data integrated with a communication fee charged for delivering said digital content data over the network;

~~removing content~~ said fee information per unit data volume and attribute information about said digital content data from the restored received digital content data,

~~where said content fee information includes at least one unit price of said unit data volume~~ allows the user to pay for the content fee along with the communication fee; and

reproducing said digital content data ~~deprived of said content fee information.~~

13. (Currently Amended) A management apparatus for managing purchase and sale of digital content data transmitted from a transmission unit and received by a reception unit via a communication medium, comprising:

means for receiving at least one of transmission information and reception information about said digital content data from a given point on a communication route between said transmission unit and said reception unit inclusive; and

means for computing, on the basis of said at least one of said transmission information and said reception information received by said reception means, a sale price per unit data

volume of said digital content data via said communication medium, where said sale price includes at least one unit price of said unit data volume,

wherein said sale price per unit data volume of said digital content data includes a fee charged for transmitting the digital content data from the transmission unit to the reception unit.

14. (Original) The management apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising:
transmission means for transmitting information about the sale price of said digital content data computed by said computation means to a charging unit.

15. (Previously Presented) The management apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said computation means computes the sale price of said digital content data via said communication medium by multiplying content fee information included in said reception information received by said reception means by a data volume of said received digital content data.

16. (Currently Amended) A management method for managing purchase and sale of digital content data transmitted from a transmission unit and received by a reception unit via a communication medium, comprising:

receiving at least one of transmission information and reception information about said digital content data from a given point on a communication route between said transmission unit and said reception unit including the both; and

computing, on the basis of said at least one of said transmission information and said reception information received in said reception step, a sale price per unit data volume of said

digital content data via said communication medium, where said sale price includes at least one unit price of said unit data volume,

wherein said sale price per unit data volume of said digital content data includes a fee charged for transmitting the digital content data from the transmission unit to the reception unit.

17. (Currently Amended) A recording medium recording a computer-readable program for managing purchase and sale of digital content data transmitted from a transmission unit and received by a reception unit via a communication medium, said computer-readable program comprising:

receiving at least one of transmission information and reception information about said digital content data from a given point on a communication route between said transmission unit and said reception unit including the both; and

computing, on the basis of said at least one of said transmission information and said reception information received in said reception step, a sale price per unit data volume of said digital content data via said communication medium, where said sale price includes at least one unit price of said unit data volume,

wherein said sale price per unit data volume of said digital content data includes a fee charged for transmitting the digital content data from the transmission unit to the reception unit.

18. (Currently Amended) A charging apparatus for charging for digital content data attached with content fee information per unit data volume transmitted from a transmission unit to a reception unit via a communication medium, comprising:

means for acquiring a sale price of said digital content data on the basis of said content fee information per unit data volume, where said content fee information includes at least one unit price of said unit data volume,

wherein said content fee information includes a fee charged for transmitting the digital content data from the transmission unit to the reception unit; and

means for charging a user of said reception apparatus on the basis of said sale price acquired by said means for acquiring.

19. (Original) The charging apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said acquisition means acquires said sale price along with a usage fee for using said communication medium and said charging means charges said sale price along with said usage fee further comprises:

distribution means for dividing an amount of money paid by said user of said reception unit into a portion covering said sale price and another covering said usage fee.

20. (Currently Amended) A charging method for charging for digital content data attached with content fee information per unit data volume transmitted from a transmission unit to a reception unit via a communication medium, comprising:

acquiring a sale price of said digital content data on the basis of said content fee information per unit data volume, where said content fee information includes at least one unit price of said unit data volume,

wherein said content fee information includes a fee charged for transmitting the digital content data from the transmission unit to the reception unit; and

charging a user of said reception apparatus on the basis of said sale price acquired in said acquisition step.

21. (Currently Amended) A recording medium recording a computer-readable program for charging for digital content data attached with content fee information per unit data volume transmitted from a transmission unit to a reception unit via a communication medium, said computer-readable program comprising:

acquiring a sale price of said digital content data on the basis of said content fee information per unit data volume, where said content fee information includes at least one unit price of said unit data volume,

wherein said content fee information includes a fee charged for transmitting the digital content data from the transmission unit to the reception unit; and

charging a user of said reception apparatus on the basis of said sale price acquired in said acquisition step.

22. (Previously Presented) A charging apparatus for charging for digital content data transmitted from a transmission unit to a reception unit via a communication medium, comprising:

means for acquiring information about a sale price per unit data volume of said digital content data, where said sale price includes at least one unit price of said unit data volume;

means for synthesizing said information about said sale price acquired by said means for acquiring with information about a usage fee for use of said communication medium; and

means for charging a user of said reception unit on the basis of synthesized information supplied by said means for synthesizing.

23. (Original) The charging apparatus according to claim 22, further comprising:
distribution means for dividing an amount of money paid by said user of said reception unit into a portion covering said sale price and another covering said usage fee.

24. (Previously Presented) A charging method for charging for digital content data transmitted from a transmission unit to a reception unit via a communication medium, comprising:

acquiring information about a sale price per unit data volume of said digital content data, where said sale price includes at least one unit price of said unit data volume;

synthesizing said information about said sale price acquired in said acquisition step with information about a usage fee for use of said communication medium; and

charging a user of said reception unit on the basis of synthesized information supplied in said synthesis step.

25. (Previously Presented) A recording medium recording a computer-readable program for charging for digital content data transmitted from a transmission unit to a reception unit via a communication medium, said computer-readable program comprising:

acquiring information about a sale price per unit data volume of said digital content data, where said sale price includes at least one unit price of said unit data volume;

synthesizing said information about said sale price acquired in said acquisition step with information about a usage fee for use of said communication medium; and

charging a user of said reception unit on the basis of synthesized information supplied in said synthesis step.

26. (Previously Presented) A charging apparatus for charging for digital content data transmitted from a transmission unit to a reception unit, comprising:

means for acquiring information about a sale price per unit data volume of said digital content data, where said sale price includes at least one unit price of said unit data volume;

means for synthesizing said information about sale price acquired by said means for acquiring with information about a usage fee for use of information transmitted from said transmission unit; and

means for charging a user of said reception unit on the basis of the synthesized information supplied by said means for synthesizing.

27. (Original) The charging apparatus according to claim 26, further comprising:

distribution means for dividing an amount of money paid by said user of said reception unit into a portion covering said sale price and another covering said usage fee.

28. (Previously Presented) A charging method for charging for digital content data transmitted from a transmission unit to a reception unit, comprising:

acquiring information about a sale price per unit data volume of said digital content data, where said sale price includes at least one unit price of said unit data volume;

synthesizing said information about sale price acquired in said acquisition step with information about a usage fee for use of information transmitted from said transmission unit; and charging a user of said reception unit on the basis of the synthesized information supplied in said synthesis step.

29. (Previously Presented) A recording medium recording a computer-readable program for charging for digital content data transmitted from a transmission unit to a reception unit, said computer-readable program comprising:

acquiring information about a sale price per unit data volume of said digital content data, where said sale price includes at least one unit price of said unit data volume;

synthesizing said information about sale price acquired in said acquisition step with information about a usage fee for use of information transmitted from said transmission unit; and charging a user of said reception unit on the basis of the synthesized information supplied in said synthesis step.

30. (Currently Amended) A charging apparatus for charging for a predetermined service ordered from a first unit to a second unit via a network, comprising:

means for extracting content fee information per unit volume from order information provided by said second unit to said first unit for ordering said predetermined service from said first unit to said second unit via said network,

wherein said content fee information includes a fee charged for providing the predetermined service ordered from the first unit to the second unit; and

means for charging a user of said first unit on the basis of said content fee information per unit volume extracted by said means for extracting, where said content fee information includes at least one unit price of said unit data volume.

31. (Previously Presented) The charging apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said extraction means extracts said content fee information from said order information at a given point on said network between said first unit and said second unit inclusive.

32. (Currently Amended) A charging method for charging for a predetermined service ordered from a first unit to a second unit via a network, comprising:

extracting content fee information per unit volume from order information provided by said second unit to said first unit for ordering said predetermined service from said first unit to said second unit via said network,

wherein said content fee information includes a fee charged for providing the predetermined service ordered from the first unit to the second unit; and

charging a user of said first unit on the basis of said content fee information per unit volume extracted by said extraction step, where said content fee information includes at least one unit price of said unit data volume.

33. (Currently Amended) A recording medium recording a computer-readable program for charging for a predetermined service ordered from a first unit to a second unit via a network, said computer-readable program comprising:

extracting content fee information per unit volume from order information for ordering said predetermined service from said first unit to said second unit via said network,

wherein said content fee information includes a fee charged for providing the predetermined service ordered from the first unit to the second unit; and

charging a user of said first unit on the basis of said content fee information per unit volume extracted in said extraction step, where said content fee information includes at least one unit price of said unit data volume.

34. (Currently Amended) A providing apparatus for providing a predetermined service ordered from a unit via a network, comprising:

means for attaching content fee information per unit data volume about said predetermined service to order information for ordering said predetermined service by a user of said unit, where said content fee information includes at least one unit price of said unit data volume,

wherein said content fee information includes a fee charged for providing the predetermined service ordered from the first unit to the second unit;

means for transmitting said order information attached with said content fee information to said unit via said network; and

means for accepting an order placed by said unit via said network on the basis of said order information transmitted by said means for transmitting.

35. (Original) The providing apparatus according to claim 34, further comprising:

instruction means for instructing said providing apparatus to provide the ordered service
said unit when said order placed on the basis of said order information transmitted by said
transmission means has been accepted by said acceptance means.

36. (Currently Amended) A providing method for providing a predetermined service
ordered from a unit via a network, the method comprising:

attaching content fee information per unit data volume about said predetermined service
to order information for ordering said predetermined service by a user of said unit, where said
content fee information includes at least one unit price of said unit data volume,

wherein said content fee information includes a fee charged for providing the
predetermined service ordered from the first unit to the second unit;

transmitting said order information attached with said content fee information to said unit
via said network; and

accepting an order placed by said unit via said network on the basis of said order
information transmitted in said transmission step.

37. (Currently Amended) A recording medium recording a computer-readable program
for providing a predetermined service ordered from a unit via a network, said computer-readable
program comprising:

attaching content fee information per unit data volume about said predetermined service
to order information for ordering said predetermined service by a user of said unit, where said
content fee information includes at least one unit price of said unit data volume,

wherein said content fee information includes a fee charged for providing the
predetermined service ordered from the first unit to the second unit;
transmitting said order information attached with said content fee information to said unit
via said network; and
accepting an order placed by said unit via said network on the basis of said order
information transmitted in said transmission step.